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**House Passes Methamphetamine
Remediation Research Act**

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*Obey Cosponsored Measure Intended To Help States
Deal With Contaminated Meth Labs*

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 365, the

Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act, which instructs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop model guidelines to help state and local authorities ensure that former meth lab sites pose no public health risk. Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) cosponsored the measure.

“Despite the danger posed by former meth labs, there is currently no good health-based data to guide the decontamination process, which has left state and local agencies on their own when dealing with those hazards,” said Obey. “By requiring the EPA to act, this bill is intended to change that and make sure that everyone has the best possible information available when dealing with the hazardous waste in these labs.”

Methamphetamine is often made in makeshift labs located in houses,

apartments or hotel rooms and, while many chemicals used in the production of meth are commonly found in homes, the poor handling and disposal of those chemicals, as well as the mixing of incompatible compounds, can leave hazardous residue that poses a significant health threat even after production is stopped, including a strong risk of fire or explosion .

Decontamination of former meth lab properties can range from minor cleaning to complete demolition of buildings. Some meth labs require soil and/or groundwater cleanup as well, depending on the extent

contamination.

In addition to requiring the establishment of decontamination guidelines, the bill also:

• Directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to work with EPA to develop technologies to help detect meth labs.

• Requires the National Academy of Sciences to study the long-term health impacts of methamphetamine exposure on first-responders and on children taken from meth lab sites.

“Over the last few years we’ve made real headway in fighting the growth of meth, but it still poses a real threat

to our children and our communities," said Obey. "We need to do everything we can to make sure that our law enforcement and public health officials have the tools and information they need to continue to safely and effectively address this problem."

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